

IMPACTS OF GOAT REARING IN CURBING DISTRESS MIGRATION

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ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken in the Nuapada district of Odisha to assess the impact of goat rearing in curbing distress migration. The data was collected through well designed questionnaire from 50 non-migrant goat rearers selected randomly from 5 blocks of the district, and from fifty migrant bonded labourers taken from one migratory destination i.e. suburbs of Raipur in Chhattisgarh. The migrants were selected on the basis of their experience in migration. The collected data were analyzed with suitable statistical measures like standard deviation, percentage, Pearson Coefficient of Correlation, two sample sign test and Mann-Whitney U test. The study revealed that 90 percent of non-migrant respondents were not credit worthy, 86 per cent were under stress condition and 76 percent of them were borrowing money from labour contractor before goat rearing. However, after goat rearing, 94 percent of the them reported that they are now credit worthy, 86 per cent expressed they are not under stress condition, 84 per cent never remained wage earners and 78 per cent borrowed money from organized sources only. Further, 84 per cent opined that they have made reasonable expenses for traditional rituals and 88 per cent are getting employment after harvest of paddy. The study further revealed that 90 percent of the non-migrant respondents were in strong agreement that there is social development due to their non-migration. Whereas, 69.8 percent of them strongly agree that there is financial and psychological development due to non-migration.

KEYWORDS: Goat Rearing, Impact, Migration, Nuapada, & Distress

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INTRODUCTION

Odisha is one of the poorest eastern states of India. The economy of state is dependent on agriculture and the performance in this sector is crucial to the development of the state. The prevalence of small farming system having small sized land holdings, seasonal unemployment, non-application of modern technology in agriculture are important factors behind the migration of resource poor farmers to other places in search for alternate sources of livelihood. Besides, migration in Odisha, especially in the tribal districts, is an outcome due to the repeated draughts that strike the state at regular intervals. Cyclones and floods hit the state at different times in different regions. There have been more than 30 natural disasters during the period 1963 to 1999. The coastal region is more prone to cyclones, floods where as the western districts and southern region are vulnerable to droughts and famines and have created a vacuum in livelihoods. In Odisha there's a trend of seasonal migration of labour force during the agricultural lean season. The small farmers, marginal farmers and landless labourers get gainful employment from June to November (sowing to harvesting of paddy). But they sit idle for the rest six months of the year. Disguised unemployment occurs and families of these people are dragged into distress which forces them to embrace seasonal migration. The state suffers from distress migration mostly from south west regions including KBK (Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi) districts. The KBK districts account for 19.80% population over 30.60%

geographical area of the State. 89.95% people of this region still live in villages. Tribal communities dominate this region. As per 2001 Census, about 38.41% people of these districts belong to the Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities including four primitive tribal groups (PTG), i.e., Bondas, Dadai, Langia, Sauras and Dangaria Kandhas. In addition, 16.25% population belongs to the Scheduled Castes (SC) communities. Tribal areas are the hubs for cheap labour forces in western Odisha. Employers often cross state boundaries and arrange to send thousands of labourers across long distances from tribal districts to find work (Smita, 2007). In most of the cases the migrant workers have huge burden of unpaid loans over their heads. The labour contractor often lends money to these folk at the time of their need like medical expenses, festival expenditures, buying of food items, etc. When the debt burden gradually goes up and when it reaches beyond the capacity of the worker, the labour contractor spreads his tentacles, blackmails the worker by saying for an immediate settlement of the loan or migrate to work outside the state in the brick kilns. The poor worker has no option but to migrate in a distress condition. The condition at the worksite is gruesome with basic amenities a far cry; no potable drinking water, no toilets and no medical care at the time of need. The labour contractor takes the money from the kiln owner and the worker is very lowly paid. If he complains about it, the goons of the kiln owner thrash him black and blue. Some even succumb to the grievous injuries they get from these beatings. The labourer toils very hard at the kiln along with his wife and children to make 1000-1200 bricks a day for making him debt free. The labourer has no independent life there and he becomes bonded in nature. (Bhagat, 2011). The distress migrants cannot receive government benefits due to locational constraints. Women and children are the worst sufferer of this category of migrants. They not only work under an unhealthy condition but also face the problems of massive dropouts from school and exploitations.

Action Aid estimates approximately 2 million people migrate from the predominantly tribal districts of Western Orissa (Bolangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Bargarh, and Sonepur) to brick kilns surrounding major cities of Andhra Pradesh (Action Aid, 2005). While the bulk of this migration is to Andhra Pradesh, some migrants also go to Mumbai, Surat, Varanasi, Raipur and other cities to work in construction sites and brick kilns (Barik, 2011). Amongst the KVK districts, the Nuapada district, economically present in the lower rungs, sends sizeable bonded labourers to the brick kilns of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh (Aga, 2011). About 80 per cent of the population in the district depend upon agriculture and Animal Husbandry as their main source of livelihood. The development of the district is highly dependent on institutional credit and there is scope for further credit flow particularly in agriculture and Animal Husbandry sector. But the banks in the district are reluctant to provide loans in these livelihood providing vocations. Besides, there is no large or medium industrial unit in existence although the district occupies an important position in the state. People don't get work throughout the year to earn a comfortable life. So migration of labourers from this district is rampant. However, interestingly in this district, the trend of non-migration is seen among the goat rearers. A person in Nuapada district having at least ten numbers of goats for three years is said to be a non-migrant as he is able to garner the resources to make the ends meet (Baisakh, 2011; Devendra, 2013 and Sarangi, 2009). In this context questions are asked, "Does goat rearing has any role in contributing to non-migration? Can it be able to curb the distress migration if practiced by the migrants?" To test this, the present study was undertaken to assess the impact of goat rearing in curbing distress migration of bonded labourers in Nuapada district.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out in the district of Nuapada and suburbs of Raipur which is a migratory destination of the bonded labourers. The Nuapada district was selected purposively because migration is rampant in the

district and there are sizeable number of goat farmers who because of their earnings from goat rearing don't migrate to other places for wage earning. All the five blocks of the district viz., Sinapali, Boden, Komna, Khariar and Nuapada were taken for study as distress migration occurred from each block. Ten farmers from each block who were earlier migrant but at present non-migrant goat rearers were selected randomly from the list provided by the local veterinary doctors. The fifty migrant bonded labourers were taken from one migratory destination i.e. suburbs of Raipur in Chhattisgarh. The migrants were selected on the basis of their experience in migration. The experience has been taken as a minimum of three years continuous migration which would enable to study the true nature and dimension of distress migration. On the other hand, non-migrant goat farmers were selected on the basis of their experience in goat rearing and number of goats being kept by them. For this, farmers having at least ten numbers of goats for a period of three years were selected as respondents, which would enable the researcher in knowing the nature and dimension of goat rearing in curbing distress migration. Thus, in total 100 respondents, 50 migrants and 50 non-migrant goat rearers constitute the sample size of the study. On the basis of the pilot study and focussed group discussions with the migrants and non-migrants at village level, the interview schedule was developed. Some close ended questions were also put in the schedule to get appropriate response. Before final data collection, entire schedule was pretested with 10 percent non sample respondents in the study area. Sufficient care was taken not to include respondents supposed to be selected for final interview. On the basis of the experience in pre-testing, appropriate changes were made in the construction of items and their sequences. The responses of the respondents were collected personally during April-May, 2016. The interviewer collected the data with much care by showing friendliness towards the respondents without getting personal. He approached the respondents at their time of convenience, specifically in the afternoons when they used to take rest after the hectic work in the morning. The help of the local veterinarians were sought during the process to get relevant data. Data collection at the migrant destination was done by a middleman, who had been a migrant some five years back. Suitable statistical measures like standard deviation, percentage, Pearson Coefficient of Correlation, two sample sign test and Mann-Whitney U test were employed to analyse the data for arriving meaningful conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Development of Non-Migrant Goat Rearers and Migrant Bonded Labourers

Development is a multi-dimensional concept with so many facets affecting it. Here, three such facets viz. social, financial and psychological were chosen for both the migrants and non-migrant goat rearers to find out the extent of development in respect to these dimensions of development.

Comparison of Situation before and After Goat Rearing

Ten statements each related to situation before and after goat rearing were developed and administered on the non-migrant respondents with the help of a dichotomous scale.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents as per Situation before Rearing Goats

| Sl. No | Statement | Yes | | No | |
|--------|--|------|----|-------|----|
| | | Freq | % | Freq. | % |
| 1 | I was a wage earner before rearing goats | 41 | 82 | 9 | 18 |
| 2 | All my family members are wage earners | 30 | 60 | 20 | 40 |
| 3 | I was borrowing money from unorganized sources | 38 | 76 | 12 | 24 |
| 4 | I was having a low social status | 38 | 76 | 12 | 24 |
| 5 | Govt. was not providing any means of support | 38 | 76 | 12 | 24 |
| 6 | There was no employment avenue after harvest of paddy | 35 | 70 | 15 | 30 |
| 7 | Unable to bear the study expenses of my children | 15 | 30 | 35 | 70 |
| 8 | Because of poverty I was under stress condition | 43 | 86 | 7 | 14 |
| 9 | I didn't have credit worthiness to meet the eventualities | 45 | 90 | 5 | 10 |
| 10 | Expenses for observing traditional rituals were negligible | 37 | 74 | 13 | 26 |

The details of the data analysis (Table 1) revealed that before goat farming, 90 per cent of the non-migrant respondents didn't have credit worthiness, 86 per cent were under stress condition, 82 per cent wage earners and 76 per cent each borrowed money from labour contractors. Further, 74 per cent opined negligible expenses for traditional rituals followed by 70 per cent no employment after harvest of paddy, 60 per cent whole family wage earners and 30 per cent were unable to bear the study expenses of children.

Table2: Distribution of Respondents as per Situation after Rearing Goats

| Sl. No | Statement | Yes | | No | |
|--------|--|------|----|-------|----|
| | | Freq | % | Freq. | % |
| 1 | I never remained a wage earner after rearing goats | 42 | 84 | 8 | 16 |
| 2 | None of my family member is a wage earner now | 38 | 76 | 15 | 30 |
| 3 | I am borrowing money from organized sources only now | 39 | 78 | 11 | 22 |
| 4 | I am having a high social status now | 17 | 34 | 35 | 70 |
| 5 | Govt. is providing means of support for goat rearing | 41 | 82 | 10 | 20 |
| 6 | There is employment avenue after harvest of paddy now | 44 | 88 | 6 | 12 |
| 7 | Now able to bear the study expenses of my children | 45 | 90 | 5 | 10 |
| 8 | I am no more under stress condition | 43 | 86 | 7 | 14 |
| 9 | I have credit worthiness to meet the eventualities now | 47 | 94 | 3 | 6 |
| 10 | Expenses for observing traditional rituals are substantial | 42 | 84 | 8 | 16 |

Analysis of data (Table 2) revealed that 94 per cent of the non-migrant respondents had credit worthiness, 86 per cent expressed they are not under stress condition, 84 per cent never remained wage earners and 78 per cent borrowed money from organized sources after rearing goats. Further, 84 per cent opined that they have made reasonable expenses for traditional rituals, 88 per cent are getting employment after harvest of paddy. In 70 per cent of the cases,

none of the family member was a wage earner and 70 per cent were able to bear the study expenses of children. The data were subjected to two sample sign test and found that the calculated value of Z is more than the critical value in a two tailed test at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, it is concluded that there existed significant difference between the situation before and after goat rearing.

Social Development Achieved by Non-Migrant Goat Rearers

Ten statements related to social development were developed and applied to the respondents with the help of a five point continuum scale.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents as per Achievement of Social Development

| Sl. No. | Statement | Response | | | | |
|---------|---|------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| | | SA | A | UD | DA | SD |
| 1 | My identity is now felt in my community. | 30 (60) | 10 (20) | 9 (18) | 1 (2) | 0 (0) |
| 2 | I am contacted by the people for various welfare activities in the village. | 28 (56) | 13 (26) | 0 (0) | 9 (18) | 0 (0) |
| 3 | I am participating in different celebrations of my village without any inhibition. | 45 (90) | 5 (10) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| 4 | My relatives have well accepted my goat rearing activities. | 35 (70) | 15 (30) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| 5 | I am being listened to at the village meetings now. | 24 (48) | 12 (24) | 6 (12) | 8 (16) | 0 (0) |
| 6 | The local leaders like ward members now take me seriously when I go to them for any solution. | 29 (58) | 12 (24) | 9 (18) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| 7 | Now I am able to mobilize some of my community members to take up goat rearing as a means of social security. | 38 (76) | 12 (24) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| 8 | Government functionaries like Anganwadi Worker and Livestock Inspector come to my home to enquire whether I need any service. | 22 (44) | 22 (44) | 3 (6) | 3 (6) | 0 (0) |
| 9 | Now I get marriage proposals from socially respectable families for me/ my brother/ sister/ son/ daughter. | 40 (80) | 10 (20) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| 10 | Caste is no more a taboo for me in interacting with higher caste people in the village. | 15 (30) | 15 (30) | 0 (0) | 20 (40) | 0 (0) |

(The figures in parentheses indicate percentage)

The detail analysis of the data (Table 3) revealed that 90 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement that they participated in different celebrations in the village without any inhibition followed by 10 per cent of the respondents agreeing to the statement. 80 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed that they were in receipt of marriage proposals from socially respectable families. 76 per cent of the respondents agreed strongly to the statement that they were able to mobilize some of their community members to take up goat rearing as a means of social security. 70 per cent of the respondents agreed strongly that their relatives had well accepted their goat rearing activities. As a whole compiling the responses to all the ten statements under social development category, it is revealed that 61.2 per cent of non-migrant goat rearers strongly agreed that there was social development followed by 25.2 per cent agreeing to the fact. However 5.4 per cent didn't answer to the questions and 8.2 per cent respondents disagreed that there occurred any social development after rearing goats.

Financial Development Achieved by Non-Migrant Goat Rearers

Like social development, financial development is another factor which enables the non-migrant goat rearers to lead a better life than their peers who are subjected to migration. Relevant data were collected administering ten statements under financial development parameters with the help of a five point continuum scale as stated in table below.

The analysis of the data (Table 4) revealed that 84 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement that they had improved their financial condition than before followed by 16 per cent of the respondents agreeing to the statement. 80 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed that they had repaid the borrowed money from private money lenders or labour contractors. 76 per cent of the respondents agreed strongly to the statement that they were able to spend money for purchase of medicines for some common ailments. Interestingly, 96 per cent of the respondents agreed strongly that they were interested in rearing more number of goats beyond the existing number. As a whole compiling the responses to all the ten statements under financial development category, it is revealed that 69.8 per cent of non-migrant goat rearers strongly agreed that there was financial development followed by 19.8 per cent agreeing to the fact. However, 4 per cent didn't answer to the questions and 6.4 per cent respondents disagreed that there occurred any financial development after rearing goats. The present findings are in line with the earlier findings (Kumar, 2007 and Pasha, 1991).

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents as per Achievement of Financial Development

| Sl. No. | Statement | Response | | | | |
|---------|---|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| | | SA | A | UD | DA | SD |
| 1 | I have improved my financial condition than before. | 42 (84) | 8 (16) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| 2 | I am able to meet the day to day expenses for maintaining my family. | 38 (76) | 12 (24) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| 3 | No more I am borrowing money from private moneylenders or labour contractors. | 35 (70) | 10 (20) | 0 (0) | 5 (10) | 0 (0) |
| 4 | I have little deposits of money in bank/post office. | 24 (48) | 13 (26) | 4 (8) | 9 (18) | 0 (0) |
| 5 | I have already repaid the borrowed money to the private moneylenders. | 40 (80) | 10 (20) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| 6 | I am able to spend money for purchase of medicines for some common ailments of my health and my family. | 38 (76) | 12 (24) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| 7 | I have constructed a semi pucca house on my own land. | 22 (44) | 12 (24) | 8 (16) | 8 (16) | 0 (0) |
| 8 | I am interested to keep more number of goats beyond the existing numbers. | 48 (96) | 2 (4) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| 9 | I am able to sell the goats in the local market at the expected price. | 35 (70) | 5 (10) | 5 (10) | 5 (10) | 0 (0) |
| 10 | All my family members are engaged in goat rearing when there is no wage earning opportunity in agriculture. | 27 (54) | 15 (30) | 3 (6) | 5 (10) | 0 (0) |

(The figures in parentheses indicate percentage)

Psychological Development Achieved by Non-Migrant Goat Rearers

Psychological development means bringing in self confidence inside oneself and building an attitude of positive reciprocation. The people in the less developed areas of the state develop an inferiority complex within due course of time due to psychological weakness. They become panic stricken while interacting with a stranger or a government official even

if the later interacts for their welfare. It's hypothesized that goat rearers in the due process of development tend to incline towards more psychological developments than their counterparts who migrate to earn a living. In conformation to this, relevant data were collected administering ten statements under psychological development parameters with the help of five point continuum scales as stated in table below.

Table 5. Distribution of Respondents as per Achievement of Psychological Development

| Sl. No. | Statement | Response | | | | |
|---------|--|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| | | SA | A | UD | DA | SD |
| 1 | I developed self-confidence after rearing of goats. | 32 (64) | 15 (30) | 0 (0) | 3 (6) | 0 (0) |
| 2 | I don't fear to communicate with the economically sound people of my village. | 32 (64) | 8 (16) | 5 (10) | 5 (10) | 0 (0) |
| 3 | Inferiority complex which had been riding on me vanished after I became owner of goats. | 28 (56) | 7 (14) | 10 (20) | 5 (10) | 0 (0) |
| 4 | I feel comfortable in extending advisory services to the migrants of my village. | 38 (76) | 12 (24) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| 5 | I give solace to my family members when they express apprehension about our future. | 32 (64) | 15 (30) | 0 (0) | 3 (6) | 0 (0) |
| 6 | I feel free to interact with the Government officials and other strangers coming to my village. | 27 (54) | 18 (36) | 2 (4) | 3 (6) | 0 (0) |
| 7 | I developed a positive feeling towards other people i.e. I feel that they are my friends, not enemies. | 30 (60) | 10 (20) | 7 (14) | 3 (6) | 0 (0) |
| 8 | I now feel that I can do something for the betterment of myself and my family. | 33 (66) | 17 (34) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| 9 | I developed self-reliance as I am no more dependent on others. | 32 (64) | 18 (36) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| 10 | I feel self-secured and I can think on my own for the solution of a problem. | 22 (44) | 16 (32) | 6 (12) | 6 (12) | 0 (0) |

(The figures in parentheses indicate percentage)

The analysis of the data (Table 5) revealed that 76 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement that they felt comfortable in extending advisory services to the migrants of their village. 66 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed that they could do something for the betterment of their families. 64 per cent of the respondents opined they developed self-reliance and same numbers of the respondents were of the view that they were able to give solace to their family members when they express apprehension about their future. Further, 64 per cent strongly agreed that they developed self confidence after rearing goats and 56 per cent were of the opinion that they were no more the victims of inferiority complex. As a whole compiling the responses to all the ten statements under psychological development category, it is revealed that 69.8 per cent of non-migrant goat rearers strongly agreed that there was psychological development followed by 19.8 per cent simply agreeing to the fact. However 4 per cent remained neutral and 6.4 per cent respondents disagreed that there occurred any psychological development after rearing goats.

Comparative Analysis of Extent of Development among Non-Migrant Goat Rearers

In order to know the extent of development in relation to the three domains of development taken under the study, the mean score was calculated for each domain of development and comparison of all these means were done to establish a relationship among the three relating to development under goat rearing.

Table 6: Ranking of Extent of Development Achieved Among Non-Migrant Goat Rearers

| Sl. No. | Dimension | Mean Score | Rank |
|---------|---------------------------|------------|------|
| 1 | Social Development | 4.39 | III |
| 2 | Financial Development | 4.53 | I |
| 3 | Psychological Development | 4.44 | II |

Findings (Table 6) revealed that financial development got the 1st rank with mean score 4.53 followed by Psychological development with a score of 4.44 and social development with a score of 4.39.

CONCLUSIONS

It is revealed from the present study that the goat rearing is one of the important livelihood options to reduce distress migration. The non-migrant goat rearers were found better in respect of social, financial and psychological development than the migrant labourers. The Government, NGOs and developmental agencies may introduce the goat farming to provide stable income to the landless and small farmers to prevent them for migrating to other areas during the lean agricultural period.

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